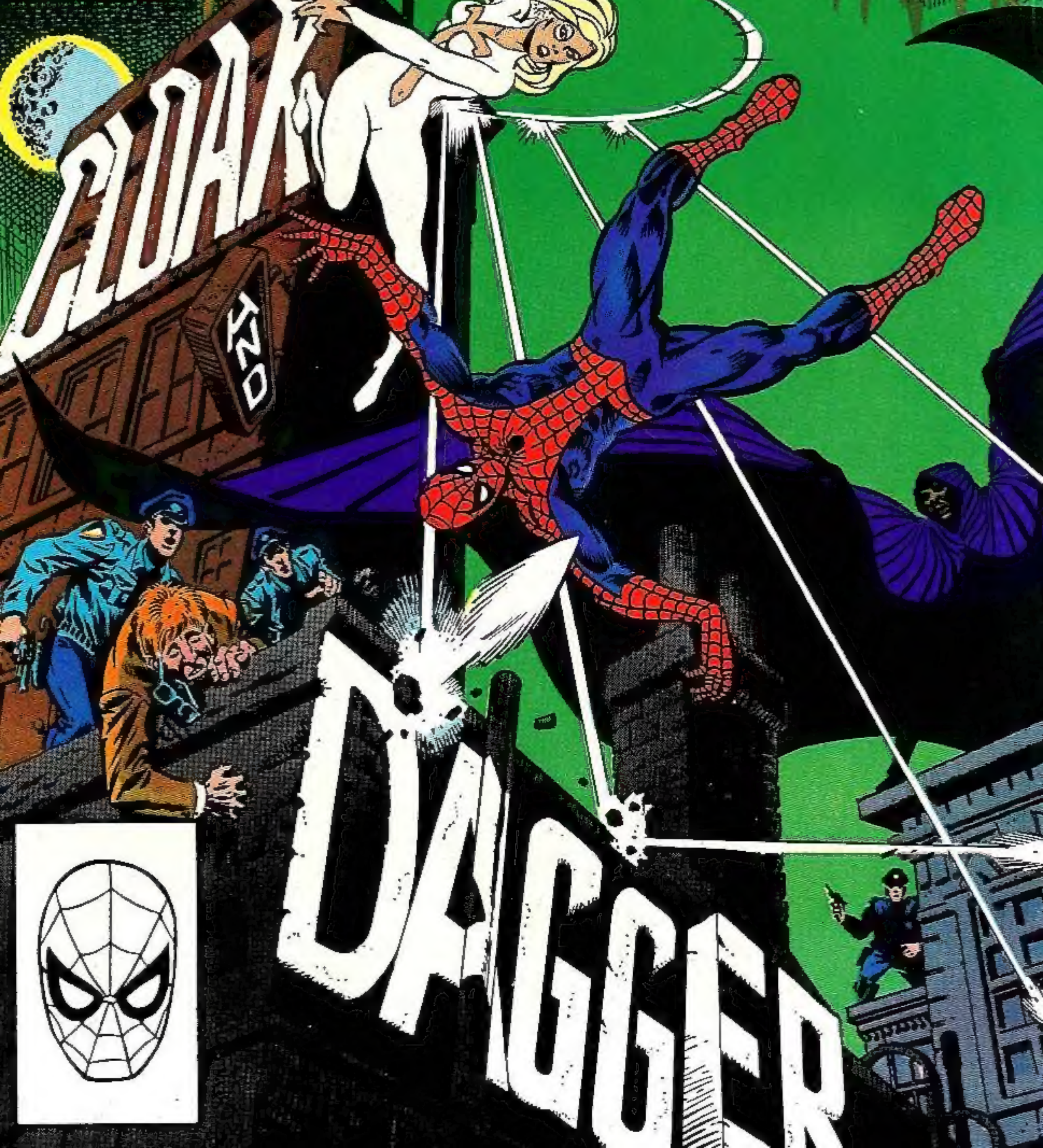


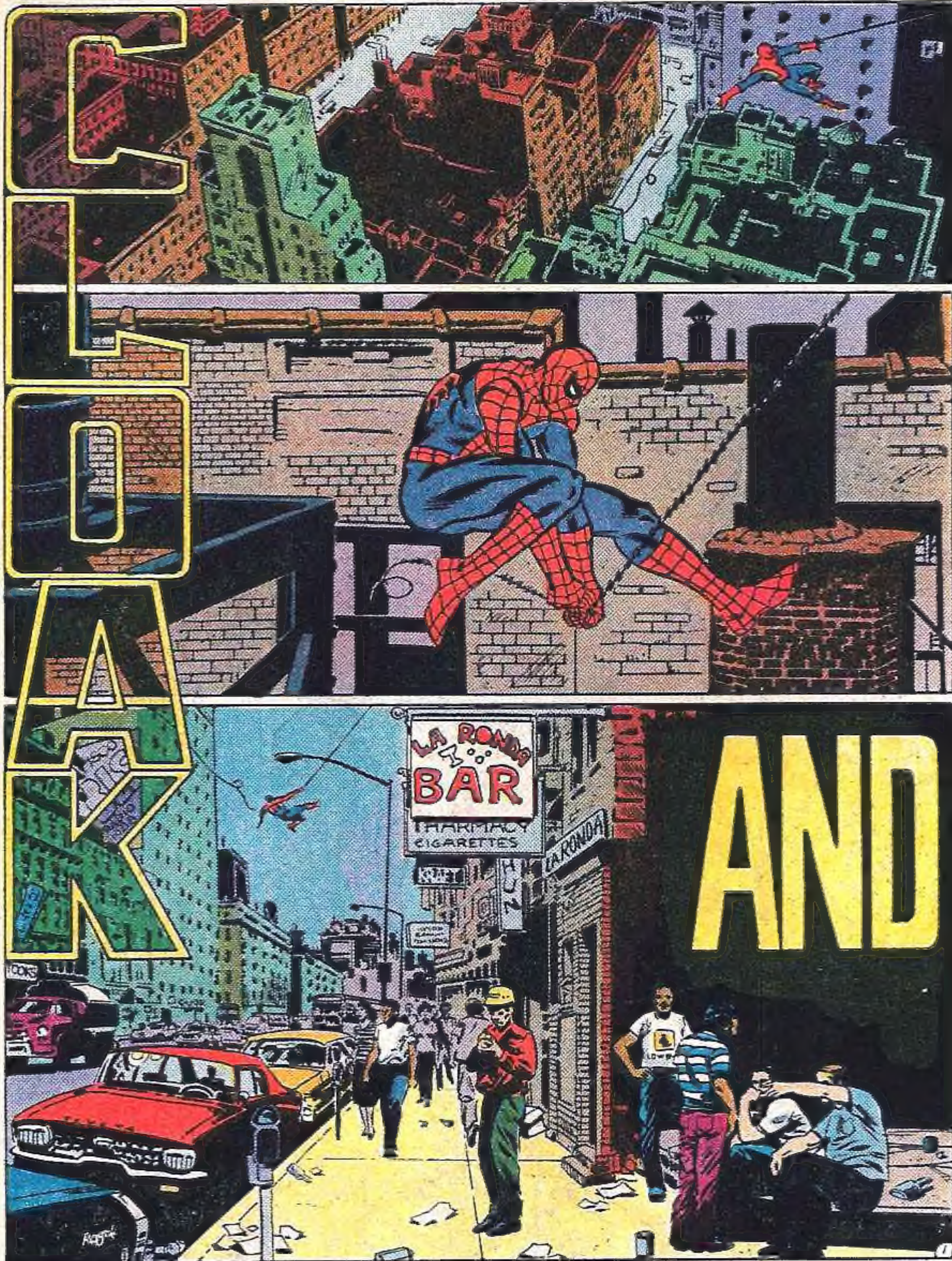
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PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN





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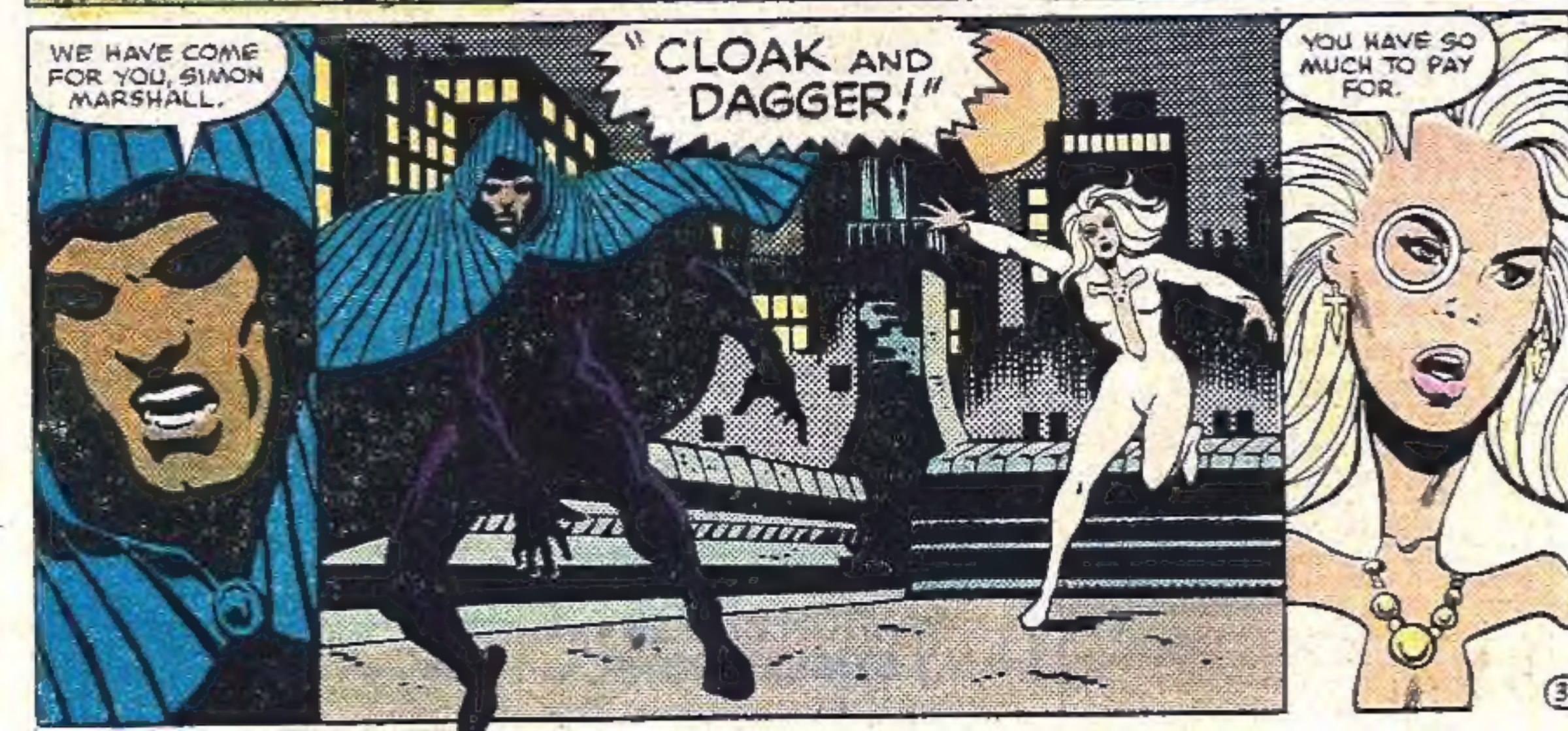
DANGER!

Stan Lee presents: A DECIDEDLY DIFFERENT TALE OF...
PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!



PRODUCED BY MANTLO * HANNIGAN * MOONEY * ROSEN SHAREN * DEFALCO * SHOOTER





A GIRL--ALL IN WHITE--MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN ANYONE I'VE EVER SEEN! AND A GUY--AS BLACK AS NIGHT--WITH A VOICE AS COLD AS ICE!

AWAY!
GOTTA GET AWAY!

YOU WOULD DO BETTER NOT TO INTERFERE, SPIDER-MAN.

I'M SURE I WOULD, FREEZER-FACE, BUT IF I DON'T DO MY GOOD DEED FOR THE NIGHT, I'LL GET A NASTY NOTE FROM MY DEN MOTHER!

C'MON! YOU'RE NOT REALLY GONNA TRY TO STOP ME BY WAVING A CAPE! THIS ISN'T A BULLFIGHT--AND YOU CAN'T SIDESTEP A GUY WITH SPIDER-SPEED!

WE SHALL SEE...

HEY! WHO TURNED OUT THE LIGHTS?!!

I DON'T GET IT! THERE'S ENOUGH SPACE IN THIS CAPE TO LOSE A CITY BLOCK!

IT'S FREEZING IN HERE--AND THE DARKNESS IS SOMEHOW MUTING MY SPIDER-SENSE!

EVEN AS THE WONDROUS WALL-CRAWLER FLAILS AGAINST CLOAK'S ALL-ENCOMPASSING DARKNESS, SIMON MARSHALL ATTEMPTS TO FLEE THE WOMAN CALLED DAGGER...

ANOTHER PUFF! PUFF! STEP AND I'LL PUFF! PUFF! MAKE IT OVER THE ROOF!

YOUR NEXT STEP, SIMON MARSHALL--

--WILL ALSO BE YOUR LAST!

Y-YOUR EYES--FLASHING FIRE!

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO ME?!

DO? WHY, JUST USE THE POWERS YOU GAVE ME, MR. MARSHALL-- TO END YOUR MISERABLE LIFE!

NO! Y-YOU'VE NO RIGHT TO SET YOURSELF UP AS MY JUDGE, JURY AND EXECUTIONER!

I'VE AGREED TO CONFESS-- TO SERVE OUT MY TIME!

I'M SORRY FOR WHAT I'VE DONE!

SORRY? SORRY?!

DO YOU THINK REMORSE COULD POSSIBLY MEAN ANYTHING... NOW?!!

DAGGERS OF LIGHT FLY FROM THE WOMAN'S FINGERTIPS...

...PASSING THROUGH HER VICTIM'S CLOTHING AND FLESH, THEY MELT INTO HIS BLOODSTREAM, CAUSING A BIOPHYSICAL SHOCK REACTION AGAINST WHICH THERE CAN BE NO DEFENSE...

AND THEN...

SKRASH!

MEANWHILE, ACROSS THE ROOFTOP...

I KNEW IT! I KNEW IF I FLAILED ABOUT LONG ENOUGH I'D CONNECT WITH SOMETHING SOLID--

SWAK!

--LIKE YOUR CHIN, SHADOW-MAN!

OH, NO! LYING THERE ACROSS THE ROOF-- UNMOVING--LIFELESS-- IT'S THE GUY WHO BEGGED ME TO SAVE HIM--TO TAKE HIM TO THE D.A.!

HE'S DEAD!

YOU KILLED HIM!!

YES.

THAT IS WHAT WE CAME HERE TO DO.

FRANTICALLY, FUTILELY, SPIDER-MAN CHECKS DAGGER'S VICTIM FOR SOME SIGN OF LIFE.

HE FINDS NONE.

WHAT'D YOU DO TO HIM?
HIS BLOOD'S FROZEN IN
HIS VEINS!

HE DESERVED
NO BETTER.

HIS PUNISHMENT
FIT HIS CRIME.

SO WHO NOMINATED YOU
TO THE SUPREME COURT,
LADY?!

ALL RIGHT,
THE GUY WAS
A CRIMINAL--
HE CONFESSED
AS MUCH--

--BUT EVEN
CRIMINALS HAVE
RIGHTS.

NOT IN
THE EYES
OF CLOAK
AND
DAGGER.

THEN MAYBE YOU'D
BETTER GET YOUR
CONTACTS CHECKED!

I--I DON'T BELIEVE
IT! DAGGER EVADED ME
AGAIN! I DIDN'T EVEN
SEE HER MOVE!

BUT SHE'S STILL
A KILLER! I
CAN'T LET
THE WAY SHE
LOOKS--

--BLIND ME
TO THAT FACT!

SHE MURDERED SIMON
MARSHALL WITH HER DEADLY
DAGGERS OF LIGHT--

--AND
NOW SHE'S
SENDING
THEM AFTER
ME!

BUT THE FALLEN PHARMA-
CIST WAS DOOMED FROM
THE START. HE POSSESSED
NEITHER SPIDER-LIKE
SPEED NOR AGILITY...

...LIKE THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!

DAGGER'S DIRKS ARE FOLLOWING MY EVERY MOVE--AS IF THEY POSSESSED MINDS OF THEIR OWN!

MAYBE DAGGER'S MENTALLY CONTROLLING THEM?

I KNOW THEY CAN PASS THROUGH FLESH--

--BUT WHAT ABOUT AN ALUMINUM WATER TOWER?

WOK!
WOK!

TWO DOWN--TWO MORE TO GO!
AS LONG AS I CAN KEEP OBJECTS BETWEEN ME AND THE DAGGERS--!

UUP!! WHERE IN BLAZES DID YOU COME FROM??!

OUT OF THE SHADOWS--

--TO BRING YOU DARKNESS.

YOUR CAPE-- ENVELOPING ME-- MUTING MY SPIDER-SENSE!

BUT I'VE ALREADY PROVEN THAT YOU CAN'T HOLD ME LIKE THIS FOREVER!

I NEED ONLY IMMOBILIZE YOU LONG ENOUGH--

--FOR THE SHIMMERING SHAFTS OF DAGGER TO FIND THEIR MARK!

ARRGHH!

COLD.

NUMBING, FREEZING, DEATH-LIKE COLD.

WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?

THOUGH EVERY ORGAN OF HIS BODY SHUDERS WITH UPHEAVAL, THE ACHING ARACHNID RISES FROM THE ROOF TO SEE...

CLOAK AND DAGGER!

GOT TO... STOP THEM!

YOU ARE AN ADMIRABLE OPPONENT, SPIDER-MAN. IT IS A PITY THAT WE HAD TO MEET AS ENEMIES.

FAREWELL. I HOPE YOUR PAIN DOES NOT LAST LONG.

CLOAK ENVELOPED DAGGER IN HIS CAPE!

THEY'VE VANISHED!

CAN'T... LET THEM... GET AWAY!

UHHNNHH!

SUDDENLY THE SCREAMING OF A SIREN-- AND THE SQUEALING OF TIRES ON THE STREET FAR BELOW-- INTRUDE UPON SPIDER-MAN'S AGONY...



MARSHALL--THE DRUG-RUNNER? WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR THAT SNAKE FOR MONTHS, EVER SINCE...!

SPIDER-MAN, I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO TAKE YOU IN--OR TO TAKE YOU OUT TO DINNER!

IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D JUST LIKE TO TAKE A POWDER!



HEY, WAIT! YOU REALLY LOOK SICK--!

AND THEN...

FRANK! ACROSS THE ROOF, IT'S... SPIDER-MAN!



LOOKS LIKE HE'S IN A BAD WAY!

YEAH, BUT THE STIFF LYING NEAR HIM LOOKS WORSE!

BEFORE THE ASTONISHED POLICE OFFICERS CAN STOP HIM, SPIDER-MAN DIVES INTO DARKNESS, THEN...

HE'S GONE! WE HAD SPIDER-MAN DEAD-TO-RIGHTS, AND WE LET HIM GET AWAY!



DON'T WORRY! THE CHIEF'S GONNA GIVE US A MEDAL FOR HAULING IN MARSHALL!

I DON'T KNOW IF SPIDER-MAN SKRAGGED THAT DOPE-DEALER OR NOT--

THE NEIGHBORS REPORTED A DISTURBANCE UP HERE! THEY DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT MURDER!

I AM TAKING YOU INTO CUSTODY. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT--

ENOUGH WITH THE MIRANDA WARNINGS, KOJAK! I DIDN'T KILL THAT GUY!

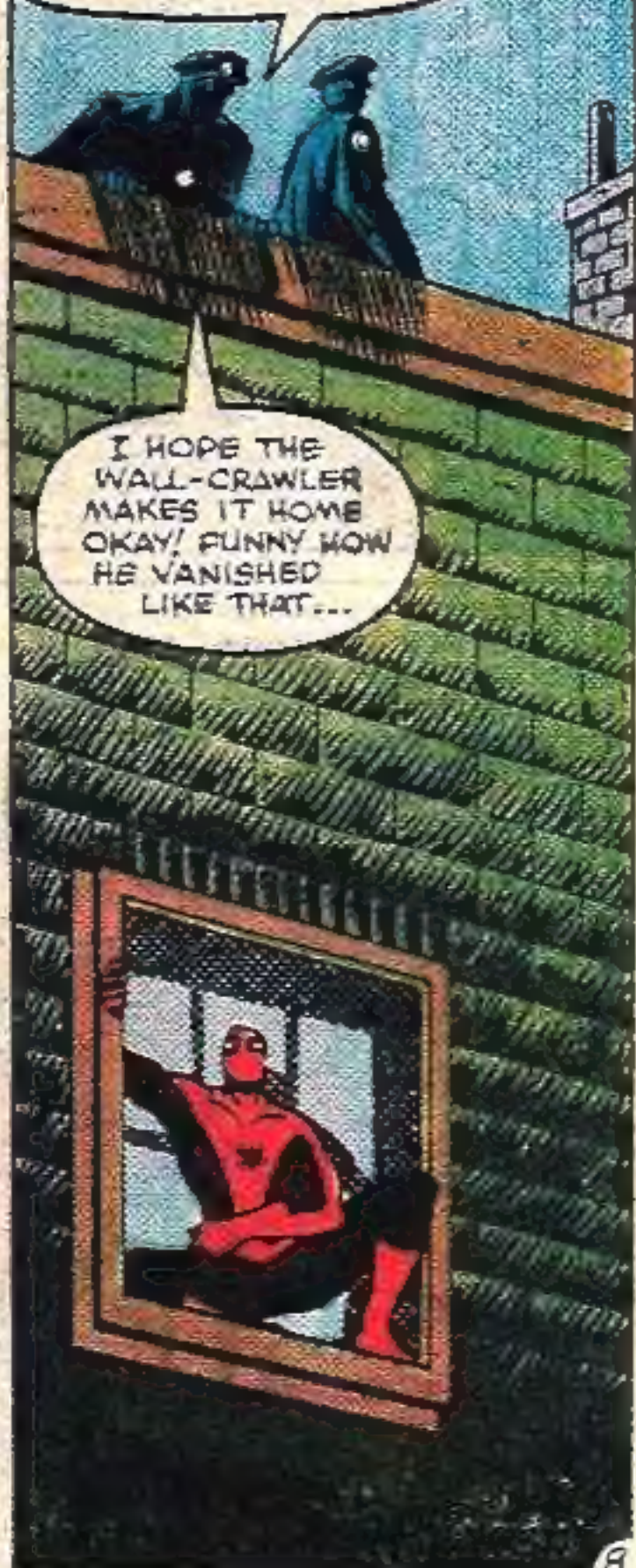
HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S BEEN FREEZE-DRIED --FROM THE INSIDE OUT!



HEY! THIS IS SIMON MARSHALL! THERE'S AN A.B. OUT ON HIM!

*ALL-POINTS BULLETIN.

--BUT IF SO, HE DID THIS CITY A SERVICE!

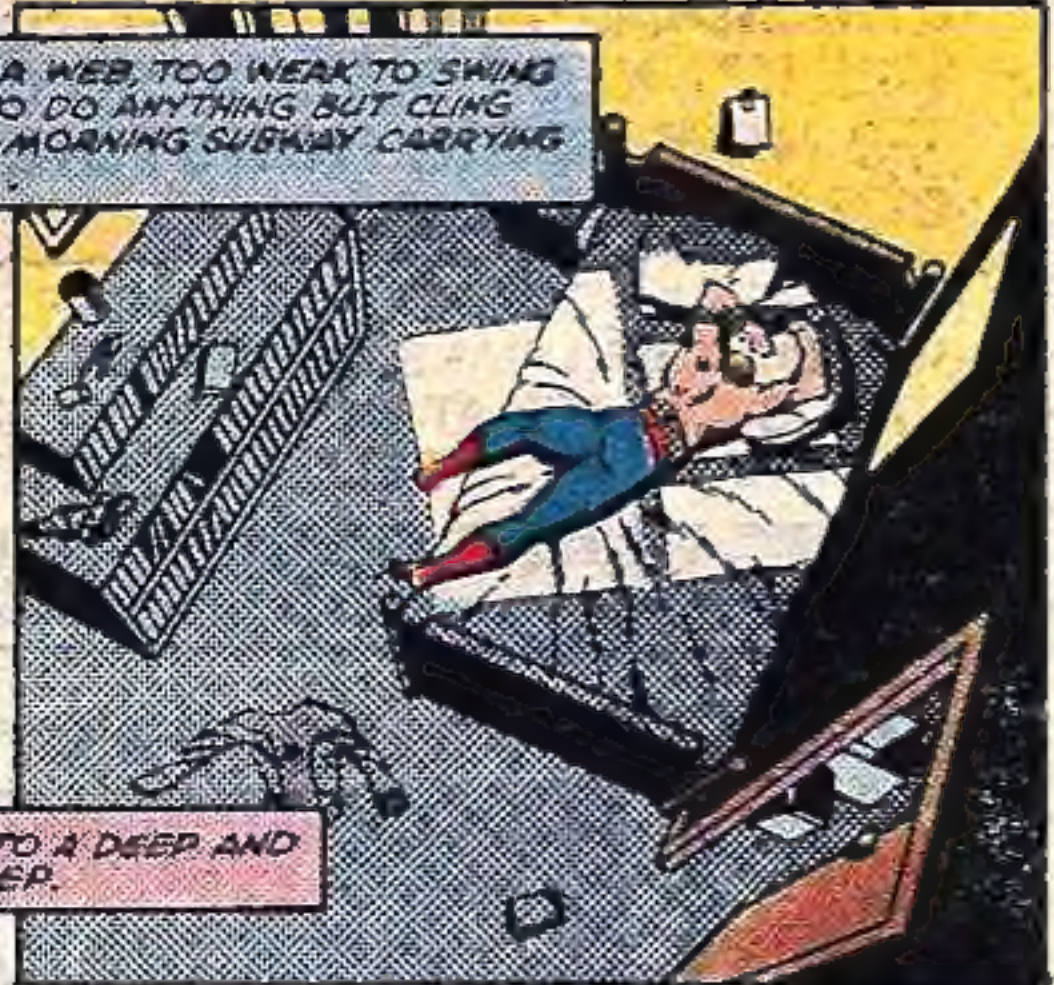


I HOPE THE WALL-CRAWLER MAKES IT HOME OKAY! FUNNY HOW HE VANISHED LIKE THAT...

AT ANY OTHER TIME, THE WONDROUS WALL-CRAWLER WOULD STAY TO BASK IN THIS UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL FROM NEW YORK'S FINEST... AND TO EAVESDROP ON THE OFFICERS TO LEARN ABOUT THE MYSTERIOUSLY MURDERED MR. MARSHALL...



BUT THIS NIGHT HE IS TOO SICK TO SLING A WEB, TOO WEAK TO SWING FROM ROOFTOP TO ROOFTOP, TOO DAZED TO DO ANYTHING BUT CLING UNSEEN BETWEEN THE CARS OF AN EARLY-MORNING SUBWAY CARRYING HIM HOME...



...WHERE HE COLLAPSES INTO A DEEP AND DREAMLESS SLEEP.

LATE THE NEXT AFTERNOON...

THE POLICE KNEW ALL ABOUT SIMON MARSHALL'S DRUG-RUNNING ACTIVITIES, AND THE BUGLE KEEPS AN OPEN FILE ON ALL POLICE CASES.

IF ANYONE CAN FIND A THREAD IN MARSHALL'S DEATH THAT MIGHT LEAD ME TO CLOAK AND DAGGER--IT'S MACK STENNET, THE PAPER'S CHIEF RESEARCHER!



H'LO, PARKER. I STARTED DIGGING INTO OUR MORGUE FOR THE BACKGROUND YOU CALLED ABOUT...



THANKS, MACK. FIND ANYTHING?

PLENTY. MARSHALL WAS AN EX-PHARMACIST HEAVY WITH ILLEGAL DRUGS.

SO WHAT WAS HE DEALING? AMPHETAMINES? TRANQUILIZERS? METHADONE?

NONE OF THE ABOVE.

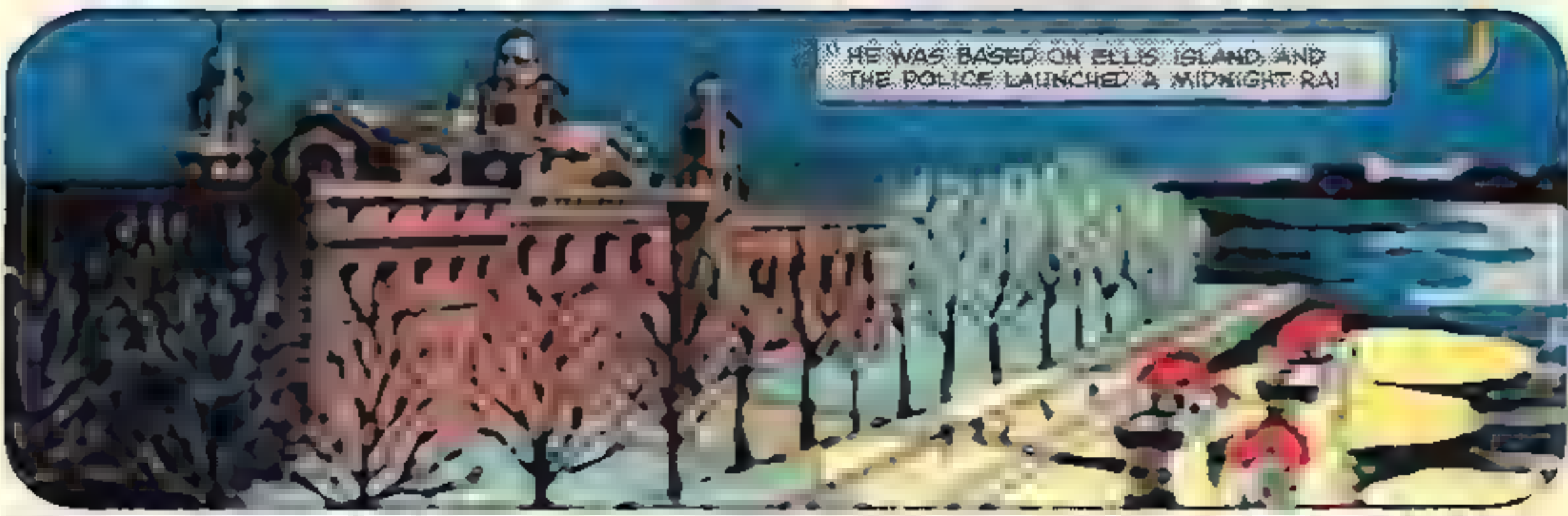
THEN WHAT--?



NEW T
EN LISTED IN THE
LATEST MEDICAL JOURNALS.

SIMON MARSHALL WAS
A NOTED PHARMACOLOGICAL
CHEMIST FOR THE MOS

AN INFORMANT TIPPED THE
POLICE TO ER



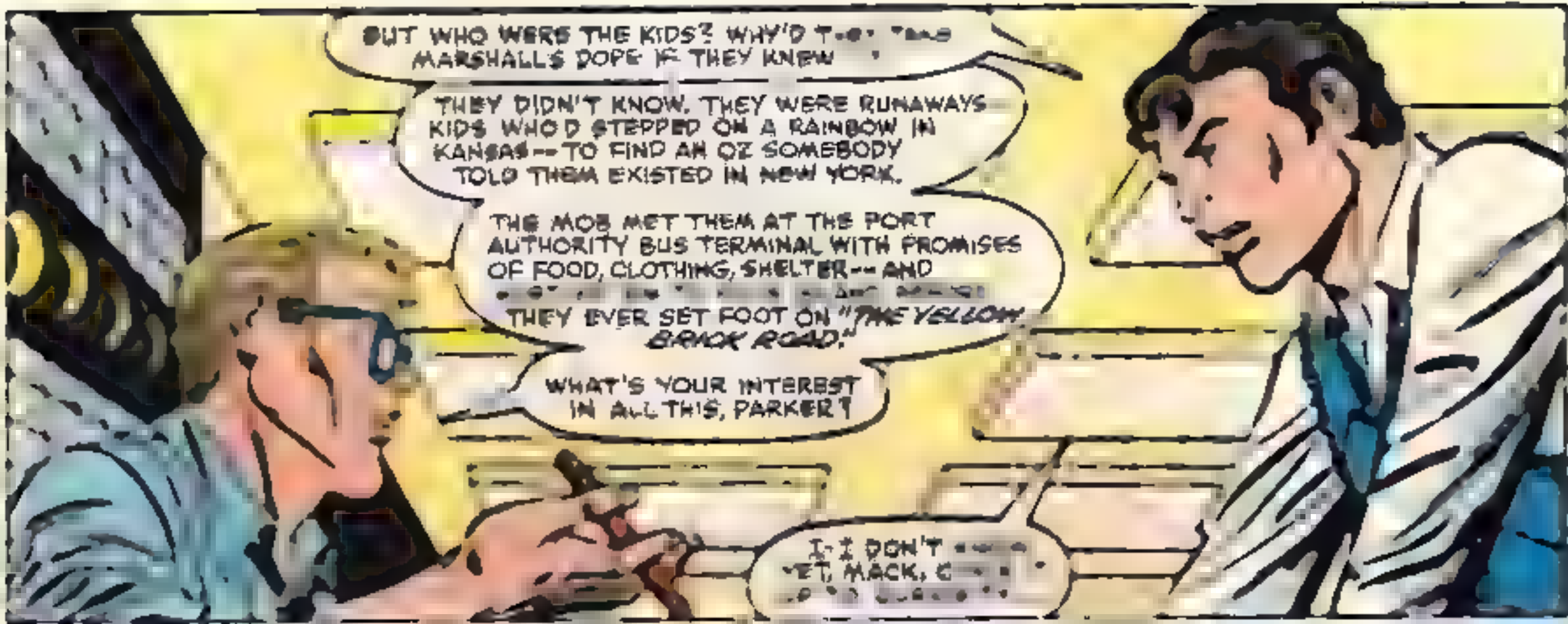
HE WAS BASED ON ELLIS ISLAND, AND
THE POLICE LAUNCHED A MIDNIGHT RAID

USED TO BE THE FIRST STOP FOR IMMIGRANTS
BY THE ONES WHO PASSED THE MEDICAL INSPECTION. THE OTT
ED IT 'L'ISOLA DELLE LACRIME' -- 'THE ISLE OF TEARS'



"THE KIDS THE COPS FOUND THAT
NIGHT WERE BEYOND TEARS."





BUT WHO WERE THE KIDS? WHY'D T-... MARSHALL'S DOPE IF THEY KNEW

THEY DIDN'T KNOW. THEY WERE RUNAWAYS KIDS WHO'D STEPPED ON A RAINBOW IN KANSAS-- TO FIND AN OZ SOMEBODY TOLD THEM EXISTED IN NEW YORK.

THE MOB MET THEM AT THE PORT AUTHORITY BUS TERMINAL WITH PROMISES OF FOOD, CLOTHING, SHELTER-- AND THEY EVER SET FOOT ON "THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD."

WHAT'S YOUR INTEREST IN ALL THIS, PARKER?

I-I DON'T... YET, MACK, C...



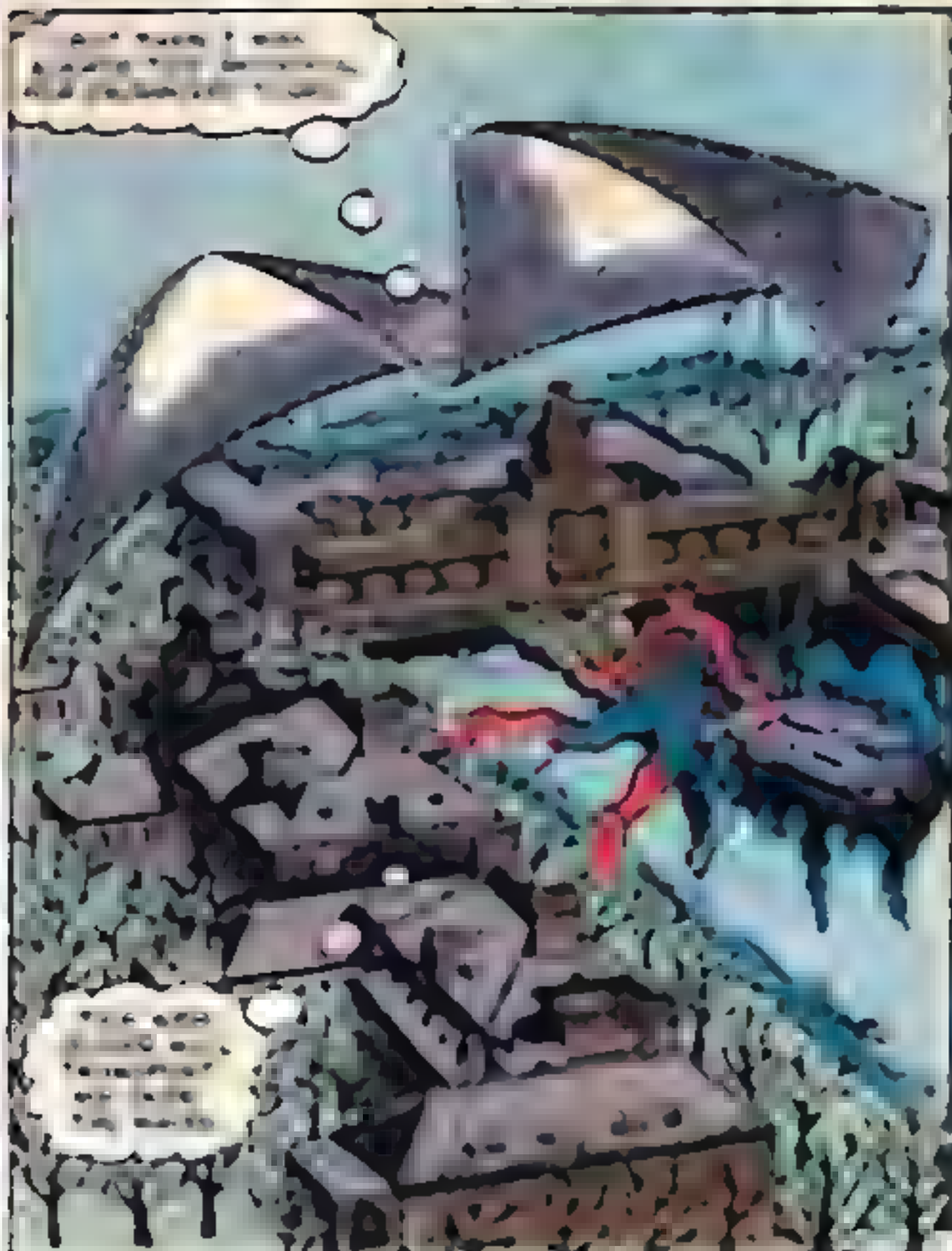
DID THE MOB HIRE THEM TO KILL SIMON MARSHALL BEFORE HE BLABBED ABOUT HIS EMPLOYERS--

OR IS THERE MORE TO THAT PAIR THAN I CAN EVEN



ELL'S ISLAND.

THE SPECIAL FERRY THAT CARRIES SIGHTSEERS TO THE ISLAND DOESN'T RUN AFTER DARK--



THEY WERE THE ONLY TWO KIDS WHO WERE LEFT ALIVE...

THEY WERE THE ONLY TWO KIDS WHO WERE LEFT ALIVE...

BLUE COSTUME, HITCHING A RIDE ON

NOT BAD! I OUGHTTA DO THIS MORE OFTEN...

... OUT OF THE CITY WHERE THE AIR ON HIGH'S NOT QUITE SO BAD!

THERE'S THE OLD ELLIS ISLAND FERRY, SUNK IN THE SLIP SINCE THE ISLAND SHUT DOWN IN 1954!

MACK TOLD PETER PARKER HE'D FIND THE ISLAND'S HOSPITAL ON HIS LEFT--

--AND THE GREAT HALL ON HIS RIGHT!

ENTERING THE CRUMBLING EDIFICE, SPIDER-MAN FEELS A CHILL INCH UP HIS SPINE--

HE CAN ALMOST HEAR THE CLAMOR OF THEIR VOICES-- A BABBLE OF IRISH, ITALIAN, MIDDLE-EUROPEAN, SLAVIC AND ORIENTAL TONGUES.

BUT, OVER ALL ELSE, HE SENSES THE PERVASIVE ATMOSPHERE OF FEAR.

FEAR OF COMING TO A NEW LAND, FEAR OF NOT KNOWING A NEW LANGUAGE, FEAR OF FOREIGN CUSTOMS AND OF OFFICIALS IN UNIFORMS...

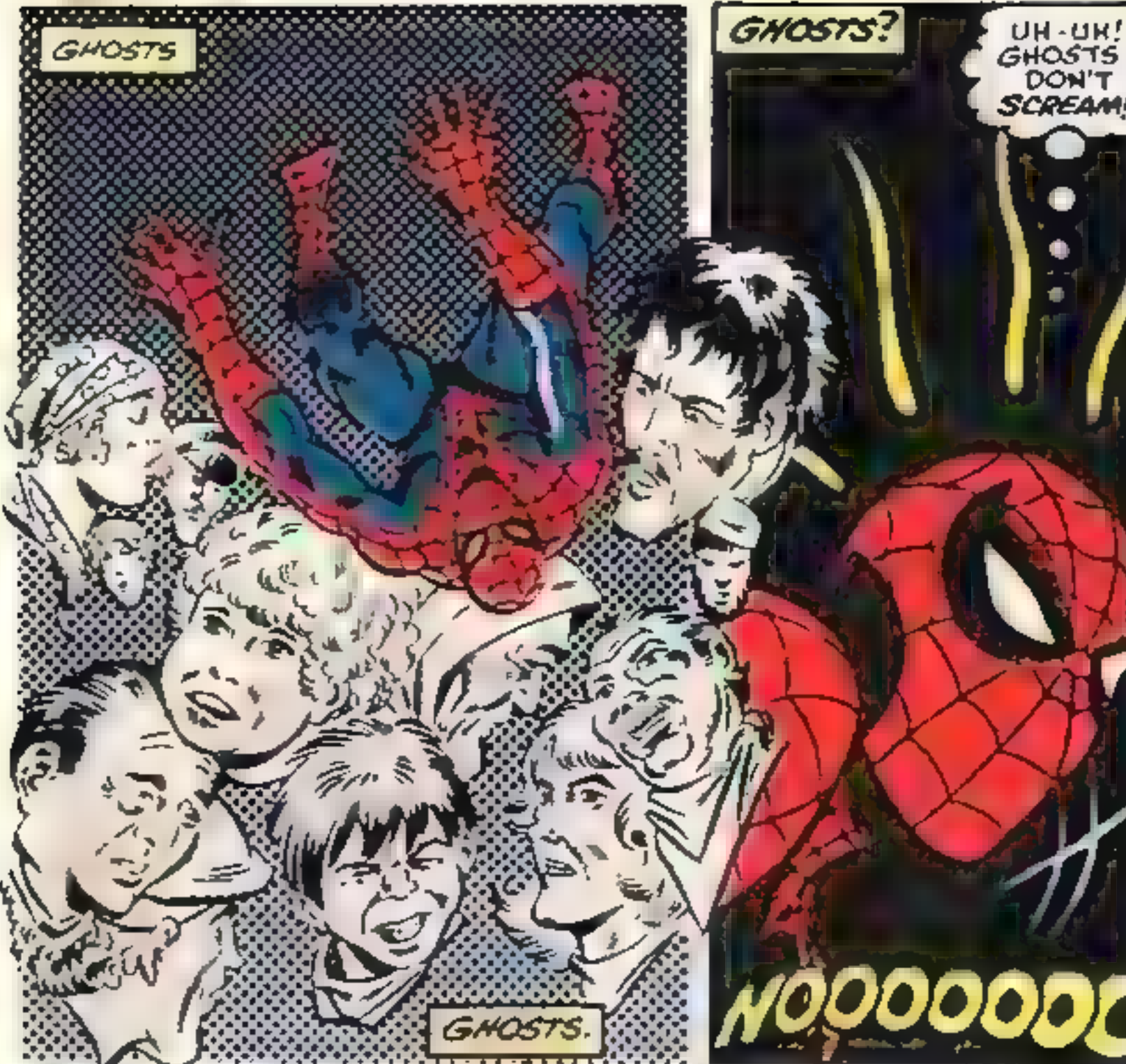
...IT IS NOT HIS SPIDER-SENSE AT WORK, BUT HIS IMAGINATION. BELOW HIM SEEMS TO BE A PARADE OF GHOSTS...

HE SENSES THE CONTEMPT OF THE IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL TOWARD THESE MASSES...

... FEAR THAT THE ISLAND DOCTORS WOULD DIAGNOSE THE FLEA BITES AND COUGHS ACQUIRED ON UNSHELTERED AND OVERCROWDED SHIP'S QUARTERS AS CONTAGIOUS DISEASES...

GHOSTS OF THE COUNTLESS MILLIONS CROWDING THROUGH THE "GOLDEN DOOR" WHICH THEY PRAYED WOULD LEAD TO A BETTER LIFE IN AMERICA

... THIS BARRING ADMISSION TO FAMILIES WHO WOULD RATHER DIE THAN RETURN FROM WHENCE THEY COME.



GHOSTS

GHOSTS?

UH-UH!
GHOSTS
DON'T
SCREAM!

GHOSTS.

NOOOOOOOO

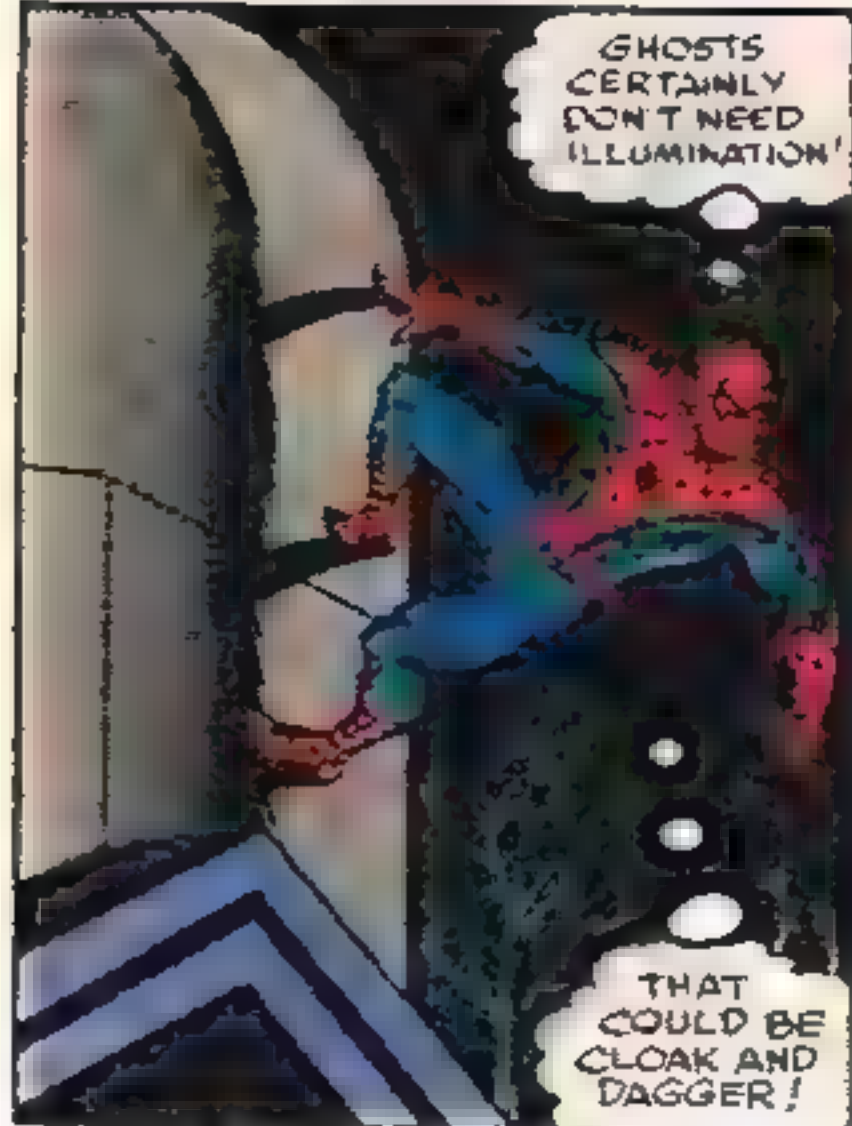


THAT CAME FROM
ACROSS THE ISLAND—
FROM THE OLD HOSPITAL
BUILDING!



I'LL BE THERE
IN TWO SHAKES
OF A SPIDER'S
WEB!

INSIDE THE OLD
HOSPITAL BUILD-
ING A LIGHT
SNAPS ON...



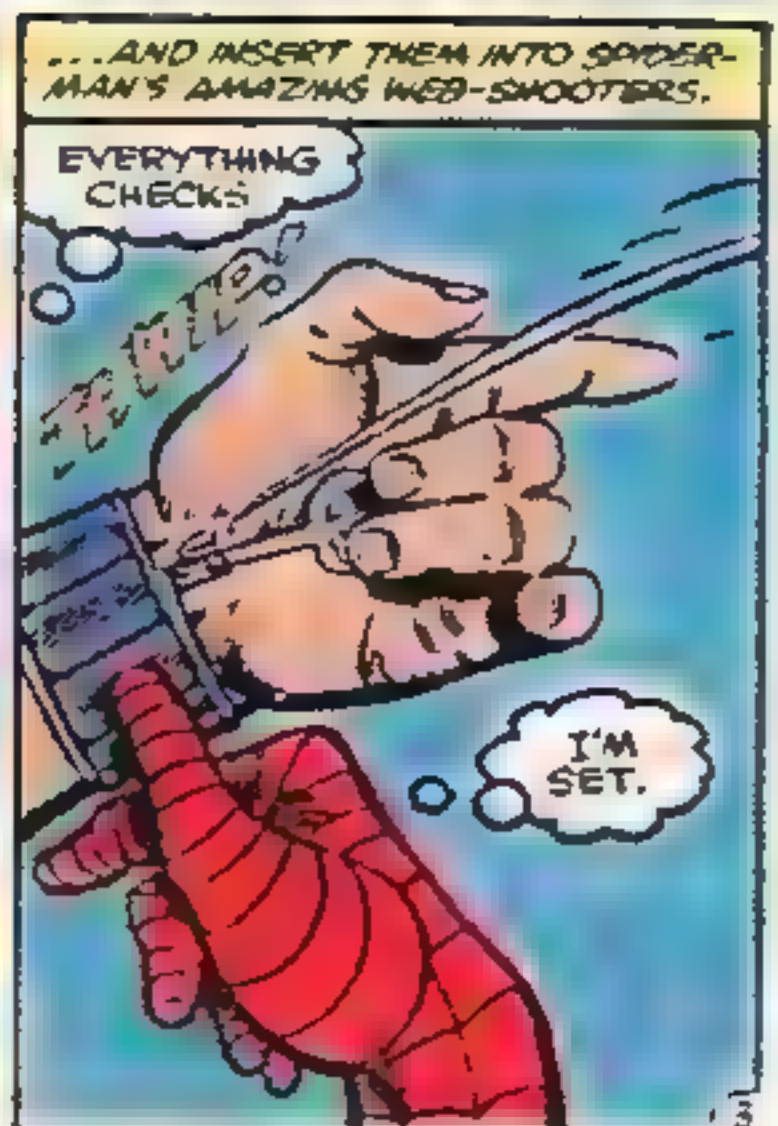
GHOSTS
CERTAINLY
DON'T NEED
ILLUMINATION!

THAT
COULD BE
CLOAK AND
DAGGER!



I'D BETTER
MAKE SURE
I'M READY FOR
TROUBLE!

NIMBLE FINGERS EXTRACT FRESH
WEB-FLUID CARTRIDGES FROM AN
EVER-READY WEB-BELT..



...AND INSERT THEM INTO SPIDER-
MAN'S AMAZING WEB-SHOOTERS.

EVERYTHING
CHECKS

I'M
SET.

AND SO, IT SEEMS,
ARE CLOAK AND
DAGGER!

IN WITH
YOUR
FELLOW
SCUM
MURDERER.

Y-YOU
CAN'T DO
THIS TO
ME!

WH-WHERE
AM I? WHAT
DO YOU WANT?

I WAS MINDING MY OWN
BUSINESS—RUNNING NUMBERS
DOWN ON DELANCY STREET—
WHEN YOUR CHICK ICED ME!

WHO
ARE
YOU??!

ARE YOU SURE
YOU DO NOT
KNOW US, JOEY
TARTAGLIONE?

NO, I-I
NEVER LAID
EYES ON YOU,
OR THIS
PLACE IN
MY LIFE!!

FORGET
IT, JOEY!
THEY
KNOW!

THEY KNOW
EVERYTHING!

KNOW? KNOW
WHATE? WHADDAYA
TRYIN' TA PIN ON
ME?!

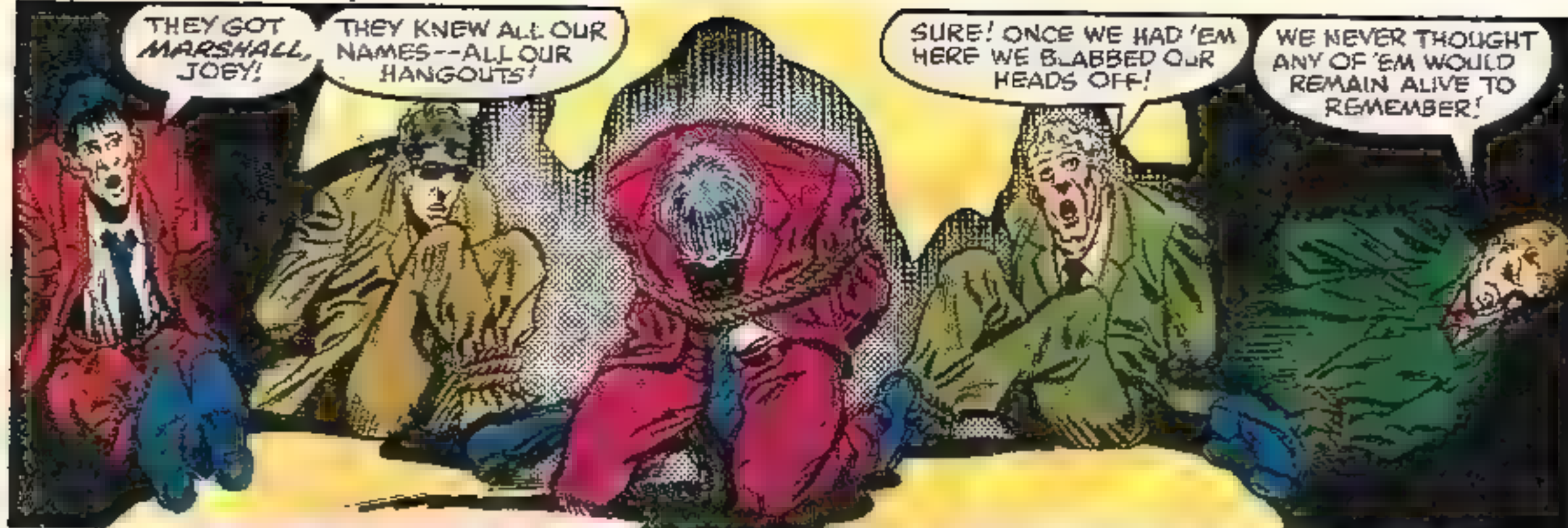
FORGET
IT, JOEY.

THEY WERE HERE!
THEY WERE TWO
OF THE KIDS!

THE
K...?

THEY
CAN'T
BE TWO
OF THE
KIDS!

THE KIDS
ARE ALL
DEAD!!



THEY GOT MARSHALL, JOEY!

THEY KNEW ALL OUR NAMES--ALL OUR HANGOUTS!

SURE! ONCE WE HAD 'EM HERE WE BLABBED OUR HEADS OFF!

WE NEVER THOUGHT ANY OF 'EM WOULD REMAIN ALIVE TO REMEMBER!



DAGGER AND I SURVIVED!

PLEASE LET US GO! WE'LL SEE THE D.A.! WE'LL TURN OURSELVES IN!

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN WE PLEADED TO BE LET GO--TO BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO OUR FAMILIES--OUR HOMES.



"WHAT WAS YOUR ANSWER THEN?"

YOU'LL LEAVE WHEN WE LET YOU LEAVE, PUNK. WHEN WE'RE DONE WITH YOU.

AND NOT BEFORE.

YOU READY YET, MARSHALL?

I'M READY.



ROLL UP HIS SLEEVES AND PIN HIS ARMS. WE DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO REPEAT THIS.

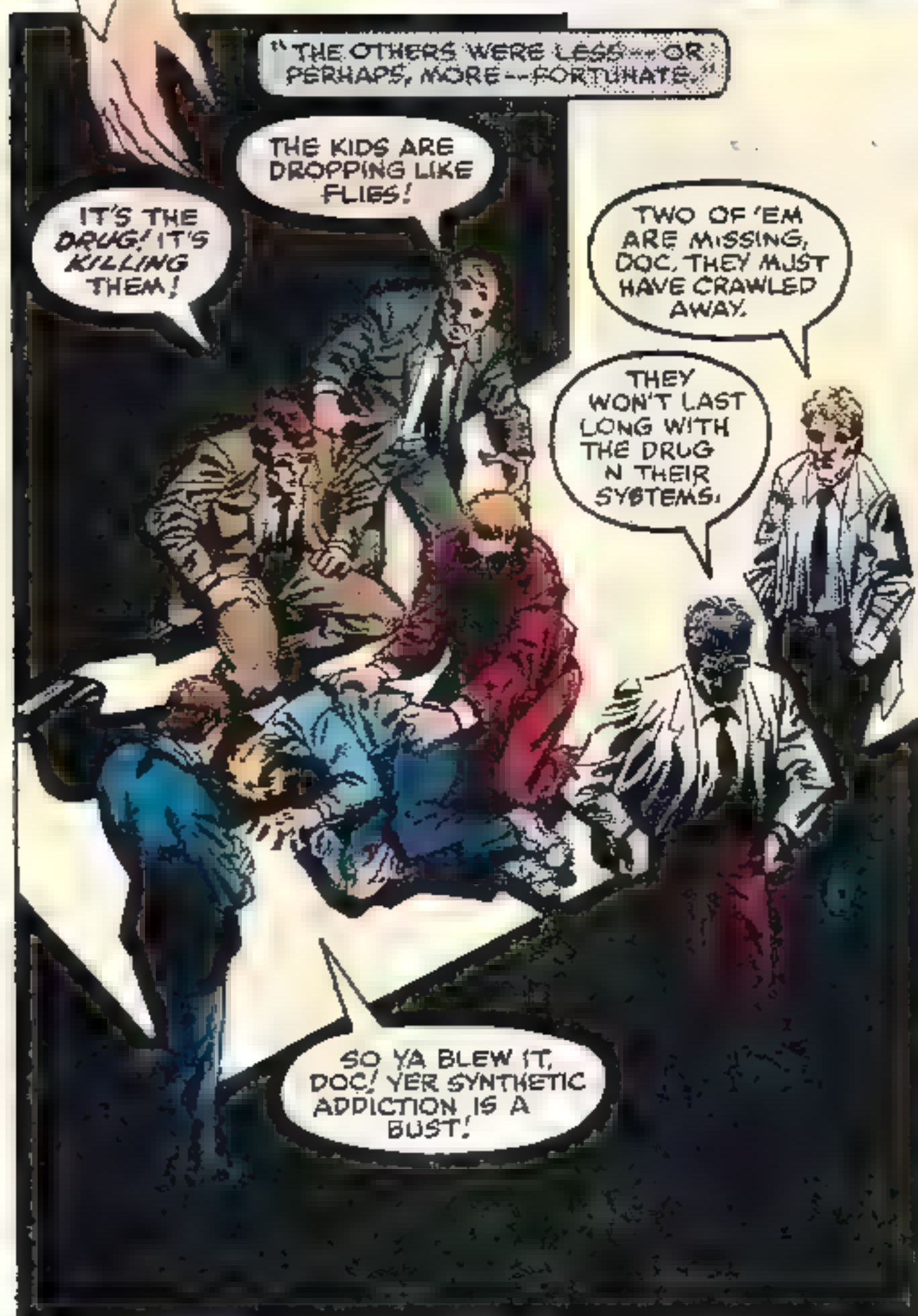
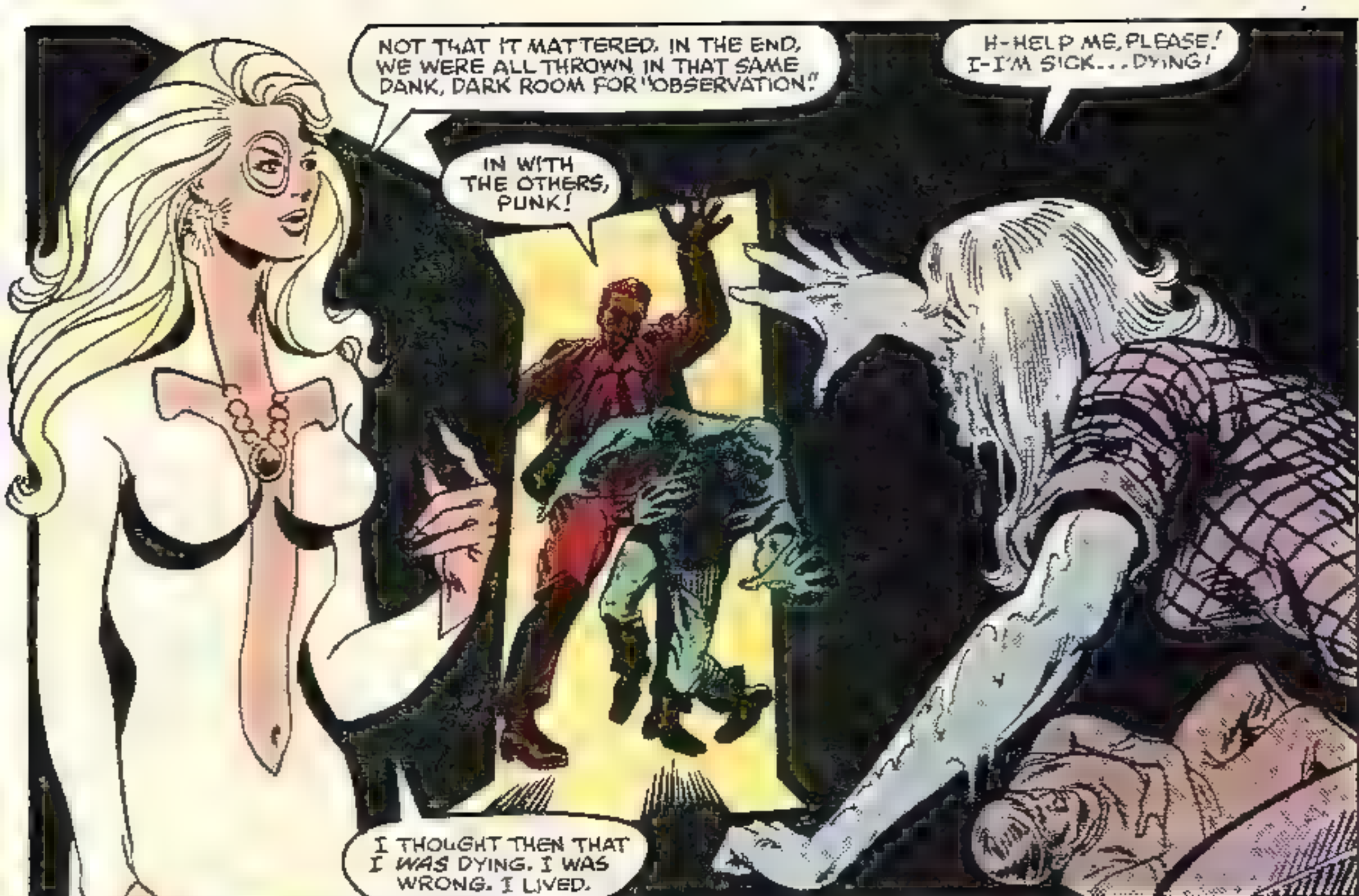
DRUGS ARE GETTING EXPENSIVE TO IMPORT! PAYOFFS ARE EATING INTO OUR PROFITS. BUT IF THIS STUFF I'VE CONCOCTED WORKS--



--THE MOB IS GOING TO FIND ITSELF IN POSSESSION OF A BRAND-NEW, HOMEMADE, TOTALLY SYNTHETIC ADDICTION THAT'S GOING TO WIPE ALL THE OTHER JUNK OFF THE STREETS! ONCE HOOKED, THE KIDS'LL LAP THIS STUFF UP LIKE FLIES LAP SUGAR!

AND WE, GENTLEMEN, ARE GOING TO BE VERY, VERY RICH!

SOME STRUGGLED AGAINST THE NEEDLE, SOME DIDN'T.



"SIMON MARSHALL WAS RIGHT ABOUT THE SPEED WITH WHICH HIS DRUG DEALT DEATH TO MOST OF THE CHILDREN."

"MOST, BUT NOT ALL."

WE-- WE'VE GOT TO STAY--T-TO TRY AND HELP THE OTHERS!
THEY'RE...BEYOND HELP...GIRLIE!

WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO MADE IT...BUT WHY US?

"WE WERE ALIVE BECAUSE SOMETHING IN OUR BODY CHEMISTRY MADE US DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS AND SIMON MARSHALL'S DRUG INTERACTED WITH THAT DIFFERENCE TO TURN US INTO..."

"CLOAK"

AND DAGGER!"

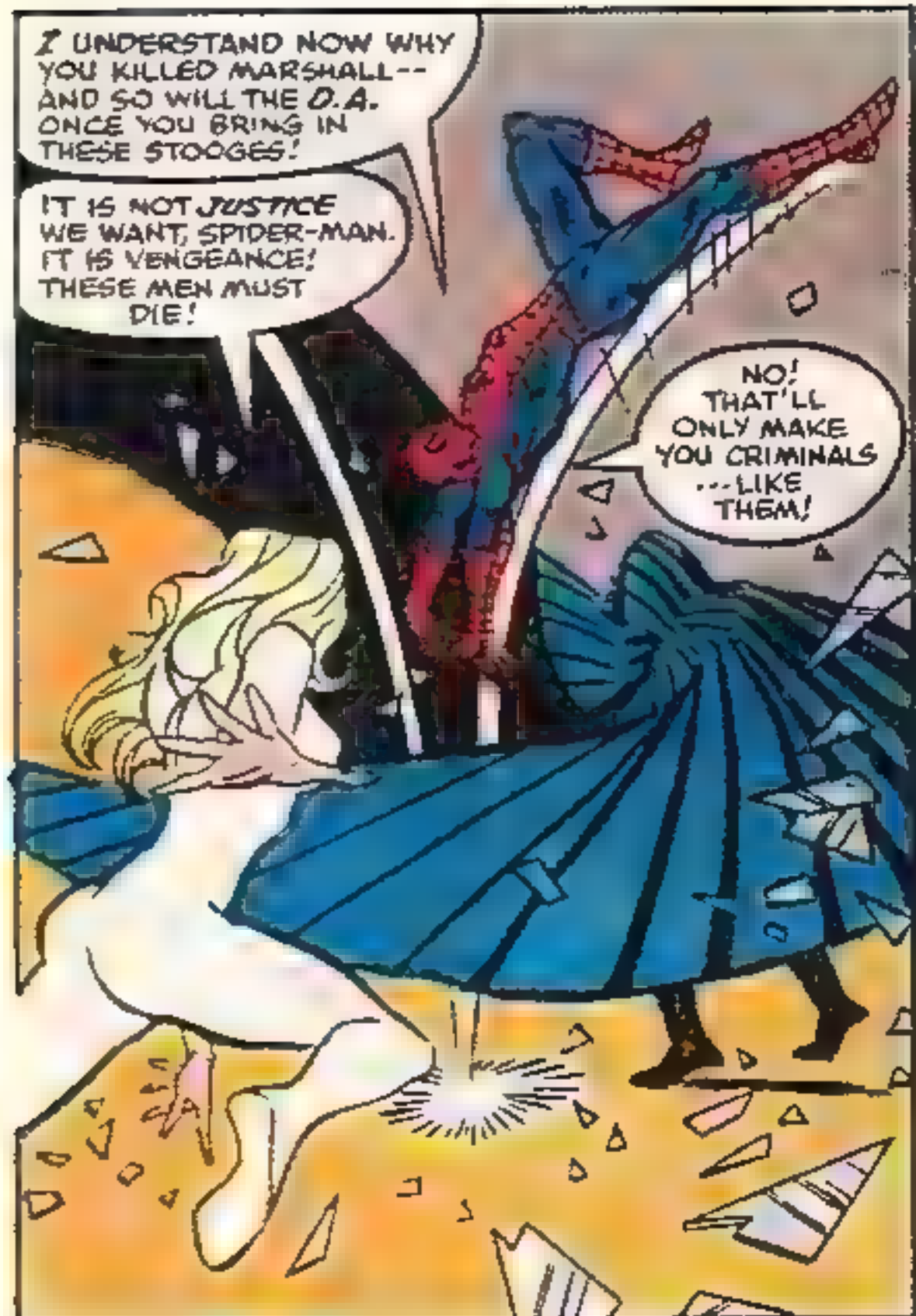
SUDDENLY...

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?!

INSTEAD OF FIGHTING YOU, I WOULD HAVE HELPED YOU BRING THESE VERMIN TO JUSTICE!!

SPIDER-MAN?!

SKRASH!



I UNDERSTAND NOW WHY YOU KILLED MARSHALL-- AND SO WILL THE D.A. ONCE YOU BRING IN THESE STOOGES!

IT IS NOT JUSTICE WE WANT, SPIDER-MAN. IT IS VENGEANCE! THESE MEN MUST DIE!

NO! THAT'LL ONLY MAKE YOU CRIMINALS -- LIKE THEM!



I'M NOT GETTING THROUGH TO THEM! THEY'RE SO BENT ON AVENGING THEIR FRIENDS WHO DIED!

WE WARNED YOU NOT TO INTERFERE, SPIDER-MAN!

UNNN! DAGGER'S TRYING TO DRIVE ME TOWARDS CLOAK!

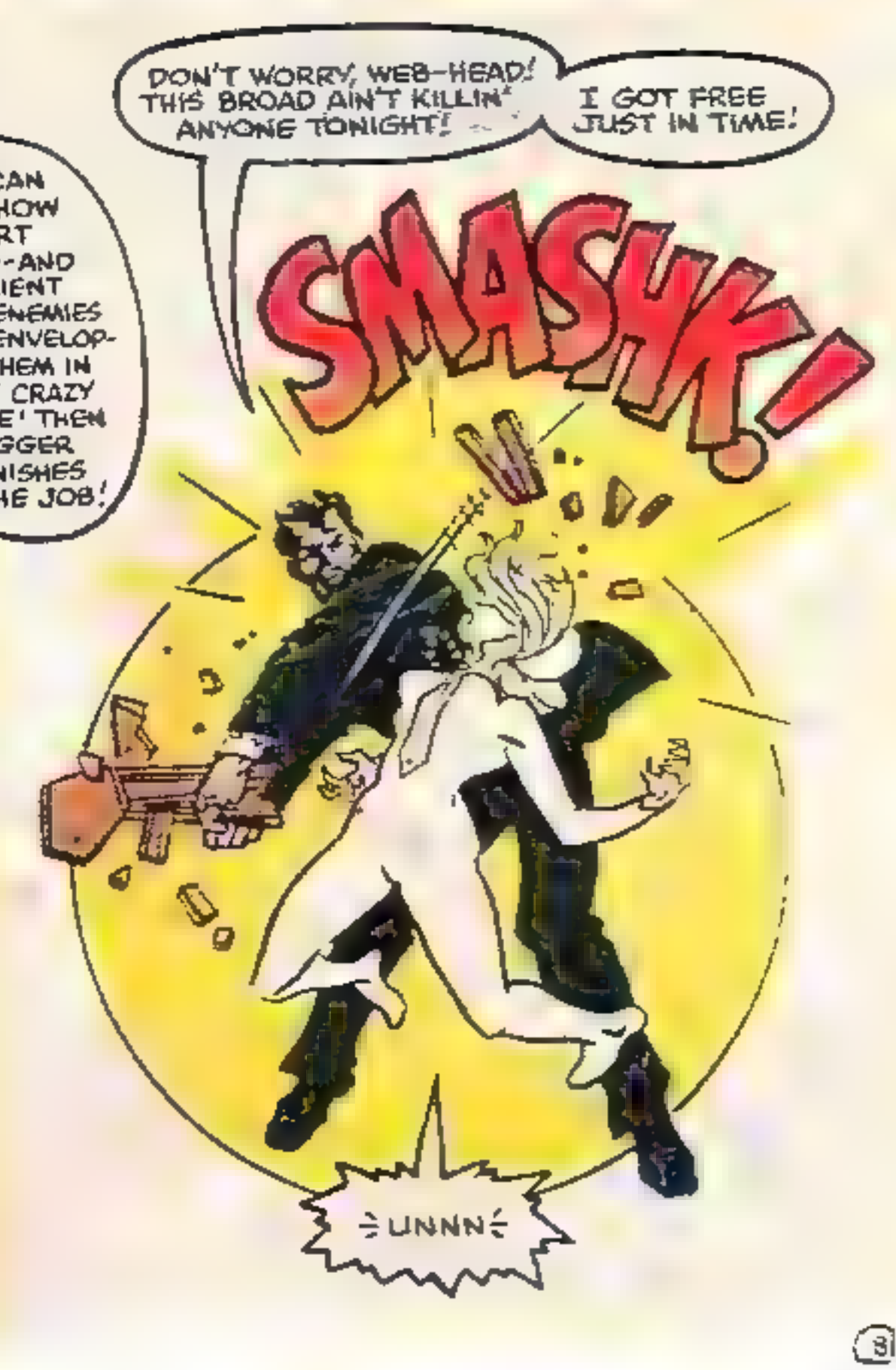
GLASS-SHARDS ALL AROUND ME! SHOULD BE ABLE TO SLICE THROUGH THESE ROPES--!



OUR GRIEVANCE WAS NEVER WITH YOU-- BUT WE WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO COME BETWEEN US AND OUR RIGHTEOUS REVENGE.

CLOAK! YOU'RE A TELEPORTER, AREN'T YOU? THAT'S HOW YOU MANAGE TO AVOID ME SO WELL!

YOU CAN SOMEHOW DISTORT SPACE--AND DISORIENT YOUR ENEMIES --BY ENVELOPING THEM IN THAT CRAZY CAPE! THEN DAGGER FINISHES THE JOB!



DON'T WORRY, WEB-HEAD! THIS BROAD AIN'T KILLIN' ANYONE TONIGHT!

I GOT FREE JUST IN TIME!

UNNN

DON'T MOVE, HEROES! THE SAME SLIVER OF GLASS THAT SLICED MY ROPES CAN END THIS BABE'S LIFE!

HOLD HER CLOSE! SHE'S OUR PASSPORT OUTTA HERE! THE HEROES AIN'T MOVIN' A MUSCLE! LET'S GO!

STAY BACK! IF YOU FOLLOW US--THE FRAIL BUYS THE FARM!

NO.

THEY'RE GONE-- BUT THEY WON'T GET FAR!

THEY WILL NOT GET FAR.

CRIPES, HE'S TELEPORTED AGAIN!

UNSEEN, CLOAK GOES ON AHEAD-- EXTENDING HIS POWERS OF DARKNESS TO ENVELOP THE FLEEING KILLERS.

WHAT'S HAPPENING? I CAN'T SEE A BLASTED THING!

IT'S LIKE WADING THROUGH INK!

EVEN THE MOONLIGHT THROUGH THE WINDOWS SEEMS A MILLION MILES AWAY!

THIS IS YOUR BOYFRIEND'S HANDIWORK, AIN'T IT, BABE? HE'S COMING AFTER US!

THAT FRAIL IS ONLY SLOWIN' US DOWN!

WE CAN SLOW CLOAK DOWN... BY LEAVING HIM A CORPSE TO CRY OVER!

SUDDENLY...



SORRY, GENTS! THIS LADY'S ALREADY TOO PALE TO BE BLED FURTHER BY LEECHES LIKE YOU!

IT'S SPIDER-MAN! HE'S FOUND US!

HUNNGHH



RUN! FORGET THE BABE!

YES, RUN... STRAIGHT INTO MY ANGRY ARMS!



IT'S CLOAK! HE'S HERE!

HE'S MAKING IT GET DARKER!

THERE'S NO LIGHT ANYWHERE!



THERE' WILL NEVER AGAIN BE LIGHT FOR THE LIKES OF YOU!

OH, NO! HE'S GONNA KILL US FOR WHAT WE DID TO HIM!



FOR WHAT WE AND MARSHALL DID TO THE KIDS!

FOR WHAT WE ALMOST DID TO HIS GIRLFRIEND!



HE-- HE'LL NEVER LET US LIVE TO SEE THE---



BUT THEN...

LOOK! UP AHEAD! SOMETHING'S SHINING LIKE A STAR!



IT-- IT'S
LIGHT!
HA-HA-HA!
LIGHT!



NOT EVEN CLOAK
COULD KEEP US IN
DARKNESS
FOREVER!



ONCE WE REACH THE
LIGHT, WE'LL BE FREE
OF HIM! FREE!



FREE!



OH, MY GOD!
THE LIGHT--
IT WAS THE
MOON SHINING
THROUGH THE--



--WINDOW!

SKRASH



WE'RE FIVE
STORIES UP! THERE'S
NO WAY ANYONE
COULD HAVE
SURVIVED A FALL
FROM THIS
HEIGHT!

THEY
SOUGHT
THE LIGHT.
I LET THEM
FIND IT.



WHAT YOU CALL
JUSTICE HAS
BEEN DONE, SPIDER-
MAN, YET NO ONE
LIVES TO TELL
THE TALE...

EXCEPT
YOU.

SO
WHAT
HAPPENS
NOW?

NOTHING!
OUR WORK
IS OVER...
FOR NOW!



CLOAK ENVELOPS DAGGER
WITHIN HIS CAPE, AND THEY
VANISH...

FOR MANY MOMENTS,
SPIDER-MAN STARES
INTO THE DARKNESS.
HE'S CONFUSED,
PUZZLED, AND MORE
THAN A LITTLE
FRIGHTENED...

TONIGHT,
HE WILL
SLEEP
WITH THE
LIGHTS...
ON.

END

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAIL

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New York, New York 10022

TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR
MARK GRUENWALD
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Spider-People,

I've been wanting to write this letter for some time, but I always seemed to find one reason or another to put it off. Well, today I got SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #59 in the mail — and after reading it, I decided to sit down and get this over with!

About issue #59... I LOVED IT!

I never was much of a Gibbon fan, but the way Roger Stern handled his return was excellent. I'm glad Spider-Man took him out with one punch. The Gibbon never was much of a threat to the ol' Wall-crawler. Get him straightened out soon, and out of the hero/villain business.

By the way, where was John Byrne this issue? I thought he was the regular penciler. Not that I have any complaints with Jim Mooney's art this issue... as a matter of fact, he really outdid himself!

I'm glad to see that Tom DeFalco is editing all of the SPIDER-MAN titles. Now they can really start to correspond!

This Beetle plot should make for an exciting anniversary issue. I can't wait to see how May Parker's favorite nephew gets himself out of this mess!

If you keep turning out issues like #58 and #59, Roger, SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN is going to have a bright future ahead!

Marc Mumbieau

13 Forest Manor

Northport, AL 35476

Your opening had us worried for a minute, Marc! Glad to hear that we satisfied your Spider-cravings.

John Byrne had planned to pencil SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN regularly, but discovered that the FANTASTIC FOUR was taking up too much of his time.

By the way, Jim Mooney did handle the finished art for issue #59, but he was following J. Strzitski's layouts! (J. WHO?!)

Dear Tom and everyone else,

In a nutshell, SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #59 was beautiful! The highlight, of course, was the resurrection and re-vamping of the Beetle! The Beetle has always had the potential of becoming one of Marvel's most exciting and dangerous villains. However, for some reason, writers never seemed to fully recognize that potential. (Of course, his old, ridiculous costume didn't exactly help matters.) It's good to see him rescued from has-been-dom with the new duds, a new scheme, and — at long last — some character development. (Any other villain would have gone ahead with his threat to kill the Ringer last issue; having one criminal bluff the other was a great touch!)

I have no idea who J. Strzitski (how do you pronounce that?) is, but he and Jim Mooney did an excellent job on the art! Please keep em' both. Bob Wiacek's cover was a masterpiece! Give the guy an extra helping of ice cream — his choice, natch! By the way, putting the credits in the movie screen as part of the story was cute — reminiscent of many a story by Stan Lee, who has also been known to fool around with his bylines!

A few more issues like this one, and SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN may well become my third favorite Marvel Comic.

right behind X-MEN and the AVENGERS!

Glad to hear that someone's finally controlling all four of the Web-head's magazines, Thomas! Lotsa luck!

Greg Gilliarde

2823 Felix Street

St. Joseph, MO 64501

Thanks, Greg! But we really won't be satisfied until SPIDER-MAN is number one on you list!

Bob Wiacek sends his thanks, and says that he'll take Rocky Road!

And just who is J. Strzitski, anyway? Hmmm?

Dear Marvel,

In regard to SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #59, featuring the work of an artist named J. Strzitski... I'm sure that neither I nor Marvelom Assembled have ever heard of him. I was looking at the last panel of page four when the "revelation" hit me that "J. Strzitski" was actually the pencils of Steve Ditko inked by John Romita Sr.! "Nice try, guys!" I thought. Ah... then I looked again.

Although a lot of the book looks Ditkoesque, a lot of it doesn't.

Okay, so you've got me! Who's J. Strzitski?

And how do you pronounce that last name?

Carl F. Correa

58 Linden Street

Lindenhurst, NY 11757

Strzitski is pronounced "strézz-LIT-ski", Carl. And it's a fine old Polish name which, several generations ago, was changed to "Shooter"!

Yes, J. Strzitski is actually Jim Shooter, the world's tallest editor-in-chief! When Roger originally came up with the idea of running the credits on the movie screen, he tried and tried to come up with some sort of credit which wouldn't call for listing Jim's name twice! (Roger eschews redundancy!) Finally, in a moment of inspiration — though some might call it dementia — he hit on the idea of using Jim's family's old ancestral name.

So, let's have a big hand for the layout talents of James Patrick Strzitski... er... Shooter!

Dear Tom,

If Marty Blank wanted to be a super-hero, respected, and even half the man Spider-Man is, then how come he picked a hero identity which naturally elicits laughter? Monkeys are humorous animals, you know.

Marty's little question and answer session with his buddy Jack — on page ten — was neat.

I noticed in the letters page that Rick S. Jones wants you to cut down on Spider-Man's wisecracks. Well, I happen to like wisecracks and hope to see more.

Speaking of the letters page, I see from this issue's yellow box that Tom DeFalco also edits MARVEL TALES. Why bother? The stories are already edited. Of course, in a few months, MARVEL TALES will reach the point at which the SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN stories will have to be fit in among the AMAZING stories, so...

And what's the difference between teaching assistants and student teachers? None? How come nobody uses the latter term at Marvel? In real life, "student

teachers" is the correct title for students who also teach classes. I've never heard "teaching assistant" used before.

Frank Titone

(Address withheld
by request)

Actually, Frank, "student teachers" is the correct title for college students who teach classes in primary and secondary schools! Graduate students who supervise undergraduate courses in colleges are called "teaching assistants"!

And we'd like to take the opportunity to point out that this very month, MARVEL TALES goes back to the beginning! Yes, with MARVEL TALES #137, we'll be reprinting the very earliest SPIDER-MAN stories by Stan Lee and Steve Ditko, starting with the origin of Spider-Man, just as it appeared in AMAZING FANTASY #15! Plus, issue #137 also includes the origin of Doctor Strange, exactly as it appeared in STRANGE TALES #115! Two of the Lee-and-Ditko triumphs which helped launch the Marvel Age of Comics! Miss them not!

Dear Marvel,

In SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #59, page four, panel 5, Marty Blank thinks, "Yeah, my old suit is as good as new!"

How could it be as good as new?

If you look at AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #112, page one, you'll see that a nurse asks Spider-Man what to do with the Gibbon's costume. Spider-Man says, "Burn it, nurse lady... burn it!"

What gives?

Todd Jensen

15550 Ingram

Livonia, MI 48154

Obviously, Todd, she didn't follow Spider-Man's advice!

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